Bad data keeps us from good decisions

A joyride through what it takes to successfully transform an organization's approach to data, visiting the Large Hadron Collider, machine learning, and how to sell a pup on the way.



Adjusted CO₂ Emissions for MY 1975-2016¹

Is your data fit for its purpose?

LAW

EPORTS















Helicopter	78%
Rotorcraft	66%
Aircraft	56%
Vehicle	53%
Irigger	90%
Rifle	88%
Machine Gun	81%
Gun Accessory	73%

What the algorithm "saw" after MIT's researchers turned the image into an adversarial example. 🙆 міт

DATA

Is not good or bad

Is either fit for

- **PEOPLE AND MACHINES**
- Discard most data, and

select data

purpose or not
Are subject to influence

DATA QUALITY

The temperature in this room is 21.5°C

- Completeness
- Uniqueness
- Consistency
- Timeliness
- Validity
- Accuracy





Data to decisions

- Identify the purposes
- Specify the required data quality
- Manage the data to achieve this level of quality
- Make good decisions...



What matters?



2021	Black	Not black	White
Population (M)	2.4	57.2	48.7
Deaths	2	17	17
Deaths per 10M	8.3	3.0	3.2
2021	Black	Not black	White
Arrests	58,502	617,974	441,041
Deaths	2	17	17
Deaths per 100K	3.4	2.8	3.9

I am more likely to die

during arrest if I am black.

Basic analytical skills for interpreting data

Questions I can ask about what I am shown

- What is the source?
- Was the data used of adequate quality?
- What other information do you have that is not included?
- What data did you decide not to collect or look at?

'Caution' markers when data is presented

- Only one predicted outcome
- Oversimplification e.g. pie and bar charts
- Excessive filtering or narrow scoping

Achieving your data transformation

Four steps to enable data-led decision making

PURPOSE > DATA QUALITY > DATA MANAGEMENT > DECISION MAKING

1. Understand your maturity

Know what you're good at and what needs to be improved

Don't just assess once – assess regularly to monitor progress

1. Understand your maturity

2. Be clear about your vision

What does your organization look like when it is good at data?

A journey without a destination is hard to complete

Understand your maturity Be clear about your vision

3. Be literate

And ensure your colleagues and supply chain are too

Educate everyone, in every role, appropriately

Understand your maturity Be clear about your vision Be literate

4. Be mindful

Data is an invaluable tool, and a powerful weapon.

Use it wisely.

Understand your maturity
 Be clear about your vision
 Be literate
 Be mindful



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